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# Personal Income in Australia

Regional data on the number of income earners, amounts received, and the distribution of income for the 2011-12 to 2017-18 financial years

Reference period 2011-12 to 2017-18

Released 16/12/2020

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## Key statistics

During 2017-18:

- Total personal income was \$903.9 billion
- Median personal income was \$49,805, up 3.0% on 2016-17
- The largest income category was employee income, at 87.1% of total personal income

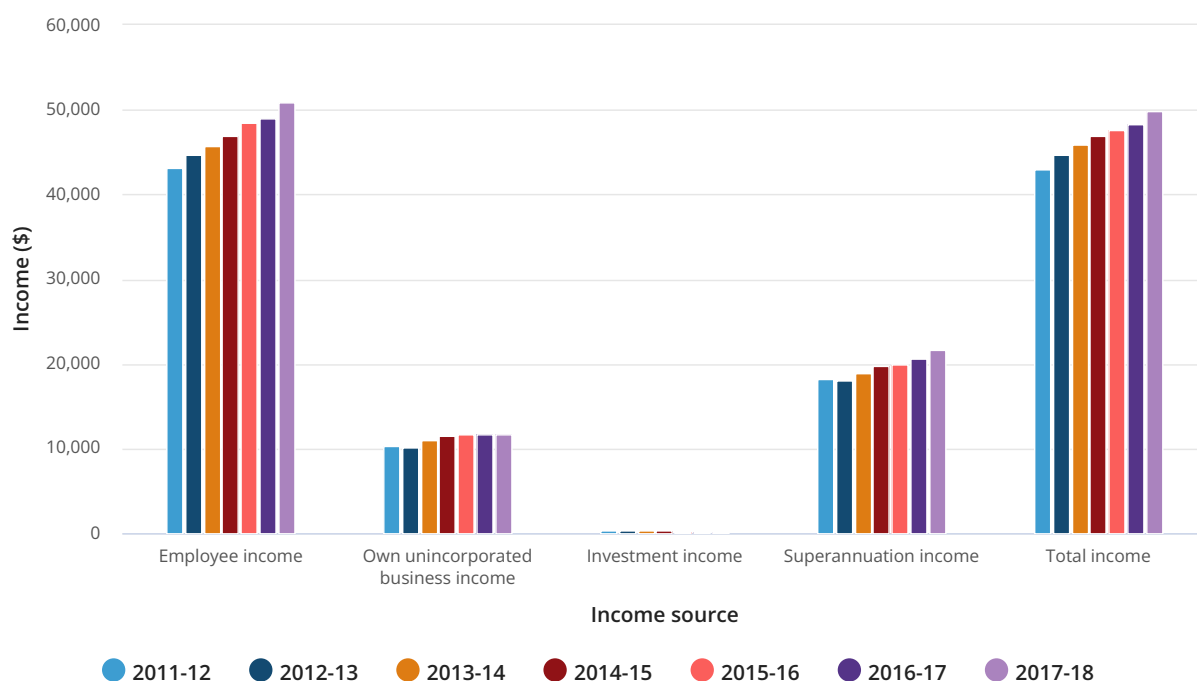
## Sources of personal income

- Most persons (77.7%) received employee income as their main source (up from 76.9% in the previous year)
- Employee income was also the source with the highest median income. Median employee income was \$50,861, an increase of 3.6% on the previous year
- Superannuation income was the source with the second highest median income. Median

superannuation income was \$21,738, an increase of 5.2% on the previous year

- Only 1.6% of persons received superannuation income as their main source of income (down from 1.7% in the previous year)

Graph 1 - Median personal income by source



## State comparison

- The Australian Capital Territory continues to record the highest median total income, but the second slowest growth rate since 2011-12
- Western Australia had the third highest median total income, but the slowest overall growth rate since 2011-12
- New South Wales had the fourth highest median total income but the fastest growth rate since 2011-12

A selection of income indicators are presented in the table below, providing an overview of the distribution of income across Australia.

Table 1. Distribution indicators for total personal income

	Median total income	Median total income growth rate		Income Share		
	2017-18	Last year	Since 2011-12	Top 1% earners	Top 5% earners	Top 10% earners
Australia	\$49,805	3.0%	15.9%	9.6%	22.6%	33.6%
New South Wales	\$50,153	3.0%	17.1%	11.2%	24.5%	35.5%
Victoria	\$49,266	3.3%	16.3%	9.6%	22.6%	33.6%
Queensland	\$48,826	3.0%	14.8%	8.2%	20.7%	31.7%
South Australia	\$48,354	3.0%	15.6%	7.8%	20.1%	30.8%
Western Australia	\$52,671	2.4%	9.5%	9.2%	22.2%	33.4%
Tasmania	\$45,546	2.5%	16.0%	7.4%	19.4%	30.0%
Northern Territory	\$60,636	3.4%	16.1%	6.6%	18.4%	29.0%
Australian Capital Territory	\$64,332	2.1%	12.7%	6.6%	18.4%	28.8%

## Local government area median total income

In 2017-18, the three local government areas with the highest median total income in Australia were:

- Ashburton in Western Australia,
- Roxby Downs in South Australia, and
- Peppermint Grove in Western Australia

The following median personal incomes are for areas with more than 1,000 earners.

Table 2. Local government areas with the highest median total income

New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		South Australia	
LGA	\$	LGA	\$	LGA	\$	LGA	\$
Woollahra	77,159	Stonnington	64,514	Weipa	82,098	Roxby Downs	92,398
North Sydney	76,063	Yarra	63,503	Isaac	70,645	Walkerville	60,803
Mosman	75,311	Port Phillip	62,315	Mount Isa	68,623	Unley	57,925
Lane Cove	70,686	Bayside	61,075	Cloncurry	61,057	Burnside	56,765
Hunters Hill	70,458	Boroondara	58,284	Central Highlands	58,694	Prospect	55,600

Western Australia		Tasmania		Northern Territory		Australia Capital Territory (a)	
LGA	\$	LGA	\$	LGA	\$	SA3	\$
Ashburton	97,862	Clarence	49,355	Palmerston	66,804	South Canberra	79,591
Peppermint Grove	90,486	Kingborough	48,608	Litchfield	64,406	Molonglo	75,143
Port Hedland	83,516	Hobart	48,119	Darwin	61,643	Woden Valley	66,458
Karratha	78,594	Brighton	47,345	Katherine	59,992	North Canberra	65,565
East Pilbara	78,327	West Coast	47,304	Alice Springs	58,323	Weston Creek	65,194

a. The Australian Capital Territory does not have local government areas, so information is presented at the Statistical Area 3 level.

## Income inequality - Gini coefficient

The Gini coefficient is a summary indicator between 0 and 1 that indicates the degree of inequality among total incomes within a region. A value of 0 indicates that all earners reported the same amount of income in that region. Higher values represent relatively higher levels of income inequality. The following Gini coefficients are for areas with more than 1,000 earners living within them and excludes the Australian Capital Territory, which does not have local government areas.

In 2017-18,

the following local government areas had the least income inequality (the lowest Gini coefficients) in Australia:

- Roxby Downs in South Australia
- Brighton in Tasmania
- Playford in South Australia, Palmerston in Northern Territory and Katherine in Northern

## Territory

the following local government areas had the most income inequality (the highest Gini coefficients) in Australia:

- Peppermint Grove in Western Australia
- Cottesloe in Western Australia
- Walgett in New South Wales

Data from the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) provides the most comprehensive source of information for calculating Gini coefficients and measuring income inequality. As such, estimates from [Household Income and Wealth, Australia \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6523.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6523.0) should be used wherever possible, particularly at the Australia, State and Territory, and Greater Capital City Statistical Area levels. Gini coefficients from Personal Income in Australia should be considered complementary information, which provide insights for lower geographic levels. For more information about Gini coefficient, please see [Explanatory notes \(/methodologies/personal-income-australia-methodology/2011-12-2017-18#explanatory-notes\)](#).

Table 3. Local government areas with the lowest Gini coefficients, 2017-18

LGA	State/Territory	Gini coefficient	Proportion of high earners (top quartile)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
Roxby Downs	South Australia	0.357	55.2%	21.9%	\$92,398	\$95,721
Brighton	Tasmania	0.371	15.0%	24.1%	\$47,345	\$50,613
Playford	South Australia	0.380	13.7%	24.8%	\$46,239	\$49,532
Palmerston	Northern Territory	0.380	34.8%	26.3%	\$66,804	\$75,182
Katherine	Northern Territory	0.380	28.6%	24.5%	\$59,992	\$63,934

Table 4. Local government areas with the highest Gini coefficients, 2017-18

LGA	State/Territory	Gini coefficient	Proportion of high earners (top quartile)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
Peppermint Grove	Western Australia	0.754	53.5%	65.4%	\$90,486	\$288,603
Cottesloe	Western Australia	0.749	46.3%	65.8%	\$74,918	\$213,501
Walgett	New South Wales	0.694	16.6%	40.3%	\$38,447	\$46,106
Woollahra	New South Wales	0.680	46.9%	57.3%	\$77,159	\$172,621
Mosman Park	Western Australia	0.675	40.1%	55.7%	\$61,500	\$135,286

## Data downloads

Table 1 - Total income 2011-12 to 2017-18

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[1.18 MB]

Table 2a - Total income distribution 2011-12

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[799.5 KB]

Table 2b - Total income distribution 2012-13

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Table 2c - Total income distribution 2013-14

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[802 KB]

Table 2d - Total income distribution 2014-15

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Table 2e - Total income distribution 2015-16

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Table 2f - Total income distribution 2016-17

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Table 2g - Total income distribution 2017-18

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[805 KB]

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Table 3 - Employee income 2011-12 to 2017-18

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Table 4 - Employee income by age and sex 2011-12 to 2017-18

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[2.07 MB]

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Table 5 - Investment income 2011-12 to 2017-18

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Table 6 - Own unincorporated business income 2011-12 to 2017-18

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Table 7 - Superannuation income 2011-12 to 2017-18

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[1.24 MB]

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All data cubes

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## Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6524.0.55.002.

## Post-release changes

8 February 2022:

Table 2e.2, Table 2e.3, Table 2e.4 and Table 2e.5: A row misalignment issue caused missing or incorrect data. These tables have been replaced by the corresponding tables in Personal Income in Australia, 2016-17, which contained the correct data.

22 January 2021:

Table 1.4: The median age of earners in Queensland in 2017-18 was corrected.

Table 3.4:

- Misaligned mean employee income numbers in 2017-18 were corrected for Queensland, South Australia, and all SA2s in Queensland
- Misaligned median age of employee income earners numbers in 2017-18 were corrected for New South Wales and all SA2s in New South Wales
- Proportion of earners with employee income as their main source of income in Victoria in 2017-18 was corrected
- SA2 Namadgi in ACT cells were updated.

Table 6.5: Misaligned median own unincorporated business income numbers in 2016-17 were corrected.

Table 7.1: Median and mean superannuation income numbers in 2017-18 were corrected for Greater Melbourne and Rest of Victoria.

Table 7.5: Proportion of earners with superannuation income as their main source of income in Tasmanian in 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 were corrected.

## Methodology

[Personal Income in Australia methodology, 2011-12 to 2017-18](#)